

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171720

FOR ASST SECT HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 15733 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PEKING
LEHINGRAD JUL 6

QUOTE C O O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15733

USLO PEKING FOR DR. PRESS

OES/APT FOR MORRIS

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR HUBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIETS ATTACK US SCIENCE MISSION TO PEKING:
S&T JCM (01.00)

REF: (A) MOSCOW 15611, (NOTAL), (B) STATE 167496

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. UNDER HEADLINE "ON A DANGEROUS
PATH" JULY 6 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRIES TASS-WASHINGTON
REPORT OF DEPARTURE FOR CHINA OF US S&T DELEGATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 171720

HEADED BY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER FRANK PRESS. DRAWING
DN ARTICLES FROM NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST,
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CLAIMS THE DELEGATION IS COMPRISED
OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE GROUP OF HIGHLY PLACED SCIENTISTS
THAT WASHINGTON HAS EVER SENT ABROAD, AND MENTIONS
ALLEGED PLANS MADE DURING THE BRZEZINSKI VISIT TO SELL
PEKING ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD BE USED FOR

MILITARY PURPOSES. ARTICLE THEN GOES ON TO CHARACTERIZE PRESS VISIT AS AN ATTEMPT, UNDER THE GUISE OF "SCIENTIFIC CONTACTS", TO OPEN PEKING'S ACCESS TO WESTERN TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING MILITARY, AT A POINT WHEN PRC IS TRYING TO MODERNIZE ITS ARMED FORCES. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES VISIT AS "A FORCING OF AMERICAN-CHINESE TIES ON AN ANTI-SOVIET BASIS, USING THE 'CHINESE CARD' IN THE GLOBAL GAME AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION". END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: WHILE THE KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ARTICLE BEGINS BY USING THE SAME TACTIC OF QUOTING WESTERN PRESS SOURCES AS DID THE PRAVDA JUNE 29 AND JULY 1 ARTICLES ON THE S&T MISSION TO CHINA, IT GOES QUITE A BIT FURTHER IN ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT. THE ARTICLE COMES DOWN HARD ON THE SUPPOSEDLY BASICALLY MILITARY PURPOSE OF THE VISIT. RADIO MOSCOW JULY 6 REPEATED SAME CHARGE, MENTIONING DR. PRESS BY NAME AS DELEGATION LEADER.

3. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT PLANNING FOR THE S&T JCM IS PROCEEDING NORMALLY HERE AT LEAST ON THE SURFACE. SCST AMERICAN DESK DIRECTOR AYKAZYAN HAS UP TO NOW STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED MENTION OF DR. PRESS' CHINA VISIT. FOR EXAMPLE, HE PROFESSED IGNORANCE LAST WEEK AS TO REASON WHY DR. PRESS COULD NOT SUBMIT HIS PASSPORT FOR SOVIET VISA UNTIL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 171720

JULY 11. AYKAZYAN ALSO CALLED EMBASSY AFTER HOURS LAST WEEK -- A HIGHLY UNUSUAL STEP FOR HIM -- TO RETRACT HIS STATEMENT THAT SOVIETS HAD ARTICLE IN WHICH DR. PRESS SAID BILATERAL EXCHANGES WERE NOT FRUITFUL. (HE EXPLAINED THAT ARTICLE REFERRED TO DATED FROM MAY 1977 AND THAT NO DIRECT QUOTE FROM DR. PRESS WAS IN ARTICLE.) SEE REF B. AYKAZYAN'S FIRST MENTION OF CHINA VISIT TO SCICOUNS WAS MADE EVENING OF JULY 5, IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED ASSURANCES THAT VISIT WOULD NOT AFFECT SOVIET RECEPTION FOR DR. PRESS IN USSR. HE NOTED THAT SOVIET REPORTING ON THE CHINA VISIT HAD BEEN CONFINED TO STRAIGHT QUOTES FROM WESTERN SOURCES.

4. THE EMBASSY NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT DURING PAST WEEK A CERTAIN RESERVE HAS DEVELOPED IN ATTITUDE OF SCST OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH PRESS VISIT. WHEN EMBASSY INFORMED SCST THAT, DUE TO ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR TOON FROM MOSCOW, DR. PRESS WOULD NOT BE STAYING AT SPASO HOUSE, SOVIETS REPLIED THAT DR. PRESS WOULD THEN STAY AT THE SOVETSKAYA HOTEL WITH THE REST OF THE DELEGATION AND DID NOT REPEAT EARLIER OFFER TO ACCOMMODATE HIM IN VIP GUEST QUARTERS ON LENIN HILLS. IN

ADDITION, AFTER AYKAZYAN HAD EARLIER STATED THAT DR. PRESS WOULD BE RECEIVED AT A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH KIRILLIN'S RECEPTION IN THE US, (KIRILLIN MET PRESIDENT IN 1977), SOVIETS HAVE MADE NO FURTHER MENTION OF HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS. END COMMENT.

5. FOR USLO PEKING: PLEASE INFORM DR. PRESS THAT MRS. GINZBURG HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED THAT HER HUSBAND'S TRIAL WILL BEGIN MONDAY, JULY 10. TOON. UNQUOTE VANCE

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